

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 852

Expressing the support of the House of Representatives for programs and activities to prevent perpetrators of fraud from victimizing senior citizens.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 9, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

RESOLUTION

Expressing the support of the House of Representatives for programs and activities to prevent perpetrators of fraud from victimizing senior citizens.

Whereas perpetrators of mail, telemarketing, and Internet fraud frequently target their schemes at senior citizens because seniors are often vulnerable and trusting people;

Whereas, as victims of such schemes, many senior citizens have been robbed of their hard-earned life savings and frequently pay an emotional cost, losing not only their money, but also their self-respect and dignity;

Whereas perpetrators of fraudulent schemes against American seniors often operate outside the United States, reaching their victims through the mail, telephone lines, and the Internet;

Whereas the Deceptive Mail Prevention and Enforcement Act increased the power of the United States Postal Service to protect consumers against those who use deceptive mailings featuring games of chance, sweepstakes, skill contests, and facsimile checks;

Whereas the Postal Inspection Service responded to 66,000 mail fraud complaints, arrested 1,691 mail fraud offenders, convicted 1,477 such offenders, and initiated 642 civil or administrative actions in fiscal year 2001;

Whereas mail fraud investigations by the Postal Inspection Service in fiscal year 2001 resulted in over \$1,200,000,000 in court-ordered and voluntary restitution payments;

Whereas the Postal Inspection Service, in an effort to curb cross-border fraud, is involved in 3 major fraud task forces with law enforcement officials in Canada, namely, Project Colt in Montreal, The Strategic Partnership in Toronto, and Project Emptor in Vancouver;

Whereas consumer awareness is the best protection from fraudulent schemes; and

Whereas it is vital to increase public awareness of the enormous impact that fraud has on senior citizens in the United States, and to educate the public, senior citizens, their families, and their caregivers about the signs of fraudulent activities and how to report suspected fraudulent activities to the appropriate authorities: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives hereby
- 2 expresses its support for programs and activities—

- 1 (1) to prevent perpetrators of fraud from vic-
2 timizing senior citizens in the United States; and
3 (2) to educate and inform the public, senior
4 citizens, their families, and their caregivers about
5 fraud perpetrated through mail, telemarketing, and
6 the Internet.

